

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2570

To exempt the vessel *John Craig* from certain requirements when operating on a portion of the Kentucky River, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2013

Mr. BARR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To exempt the vessel *John Craig* from certain requirements when operating on a portion of the Kentucky River, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Valley View Ferry
5 Preservation Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Valley View Ferry is the oldest continu-
9 ously operated ferry west of the Appalachian Moun-
10 tains and the third oldest in the United States.

1 (2) The vessel utilized by the Valley View
2 Ferry, the vessel *John Craig*, does not have steering
3 capabilities; instead, it is attached to 2 overhead, $\frac{7}{8}$
4 inch diameter cables that guide the vessel to each
5 side of the river.

6 (3) The crossing distance for the Valley View
7 Ferry is approximately 500 feet.

8 (4) The Valley View Ferry is located on the
9 Kentucky River between the cities of Lexington,
10 Nicholasville, and Richmond in Central Kentucky.

11 (5) The *John Craig* is a 24-ton vessel that is
12 60 feet long and 14 feet wide.

13 (6) The Valley View Ferry does not carry vehi-
14 cles with combustible materials.

15 (7) The Valley View Ferry is a toll-free ferry.

16 (8) Federal regulations changed in 2006, which
17 established a new requirement that the Valley View
18 Ferry comply with all Coast Guard inspection and li-
19 censing regulations.

20 (9) The new licensing regulations for operators
21 of the vessel *John Craig* threaten to close the his-
22 toric ferry.

23 (10) While the Coast Guard should maintain
24 safety inspection authority with respect to the Valley

1 View Ferry, licensing authority should reside with
2 the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

3 **SEC. 3. VALLEY VIEW FERRY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
5 sion of law, the vessel *John Craig* (United States official
6 number D1110613), if operating on the covered portion
7 of the Kentucky River, shall be exempt from the require-
8 ment under section 8902 of title 46, United States Code,
9 that the vessel be operated by an individual licensed by
10 the Secretary.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The exemption under sub-
13 section (a) shall take effect on the date on which the
14 Secretary determines that a licensing requirement
15 under Kentucky State law has been established that
16 applies to the vessel *John Craig*.

17 (2) CONTINUED EFFECT.—The exemption
18 under subsection (a), upon taking effect as the re-
19 sult of a State law under paragraph (1), shall re-
20 main in effect for the period during which such
21 State law is in effect.

22 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
23 nitions apply:

24 (1) COVERED PORTION OF THE KENTUCKY
25 RIVER.—The term “covered portion of the Kentucky

1 River” means the portion of the Kentucky River,
2 Kentucky, located at approximately mile point 158,
3 in Pool Number 9, between Lock and Dam Number
4 9 and Lock and Dam Number 10.

5 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” has
6 the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title
7 46, United States Code.

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